



MEDIA RELEASE

24 August 2017

## **ACPET National Conference Kicks Off**

Hundreds of delegates from across Australia and beyond have come together in the sunshine state's Brisbane to kick off the official opening of Australian Council for Private Education and Training's (ACPET) National Conference.

During the conference 24-25 August, international and Australian leaders and experts are set to find solutions to issues of vital importance to the private higher education and training sector.

Today's conference kicked off with an address from Senator Bridget McKenzie who opened the day's proceedings.

Both The Hon Karen Andrews MP and Teri Butler MP attended the opening day of the conference, Andrews announcing the exclusive news to attendees that the second round of applications for the VET Student Loans scheme will open on 30th August.

Delegates were also addressed by industry experts including Managing Director, DAIS, Jack Perlinski and renowned economist, Professor Ian Harper throughout the day.

Professor Ian Harper offered particularly valuable insight and perspective throughout his exceptional speech delivery, noting that the industry must take the following steps to prepare for a successful economic future;

"The industry must be willing to co-design the market between government and the private sector."

"And the industry also needs to show commitment to long term investment in quality services that are responsive to the needs of users," said Professor Harper.

ACPET CEO Rod Camm said that he was delighted to have such a high calibre of industry professionals and government leaders on board with the 2017 conference, that marks 25 years of ACPET.

"The proceedings today were a great start to our 25 year birthday celebrations that will extend to include our Celebration Dinner to be held this evening,"

"Tonight's dinner will be an incredible opportunity to honour the achievements of our past CEO's and Chairs who's contributed to the success of ACPET over the last 25 years," he said.

If you don't want to miss out on this unique gathering of political and industry representatives, 2017 APIEF & ACPET National Conference continues tomorrow and will hear from Hon. Yvette D'Ath MP, Qld Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, and Minister for Training and Skills.

Ends.

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